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Public (Generals) (1948) Department.

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G.O. No. 286

Dated 7th February 1948

[Despatch Abstract.]

Legislative Assembly Question - Patronage of Hon. Ministe
in regard to collection of funds for public purposes.

Collection of funds by Government servants.

*513 Q. Sri S. Nagaraja Manigar (on behalf of Sri V. Raghavayya): Will the Hon. the Premier be pleased to state --

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the Ministers are patronizing the collection of funds for certain public objects;

(b) whether any representations have been made by the public that Ministers ought not to associate themselves with public collections, however laudable the object may be;

(c) whether Government servants have been encouraged by the example of the Ministers to make similar collections on their own initiative in Nellore, Kistna and other districts; and

(d) what steps the Government propose to take to put an end to the collections referred to above ?

The Hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan (on behalf of Hon. the Premier):

"(a) the answer is in the affirmative;
(b) The answer is in the negative
(c) The answer is in the negative
(d) Thmis does not arise."

Sri S. Nagaraja Manigar:- "May I know whether there is a recent Government Order prohibiting such collections ?"

The Hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan:-"As far as ~~Imx~~ I am aware, hon. Members of Government are entitled to collect funds for public purposes and all that my Hon. Colleague the Minister for Education has done is in order to advance the cause of Tamil to get up a lexicon which will be of immense use to the Tamil-speaking people. As long as that is done, I do not see how he could be prevented from doing a duty to the public which he thinks is correct."

Sri S. Nagaraja Manigar:-"May I know whether collections made for refugee relief has been recently asked to be returned to Krishnagiri taluk ?"

The Hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan:-"I am afraid I have no information on that point as this is a question concerning funds collected with regard to Tamil Lexicon. As far as I know, funds for refugee relief have been collected but with regard to what has been done with it, if the Hon. Gentleman will put down a separate question, I shall obtain the information.

Sri T. Viswanatham:- "May I know if Government are satisfied that it is a wholesome principle that Ministers who have got powers of patronage in their hands should not attempt to collect funds although they may be for laudable purposes ?

The Hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan:- "I am sure my Hon. Colleague has made it clear that he is doing it not as a Minister of Government but as a person interested in the advancement of Tamil literature and Tamil culture."

Sri Guntur Narasimha Rao:- "May I know whether it is not a fact that the Hon. Member for Nellore - General Rural has been collecting money for the Yenadhi hostel with the help of the District Superintendent of Police, Nellore ?"

The Hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan:-"I am afraid I have no information on this; I am taken by surprise."

Sri M.S. Abdul Majid Sahib Bahadur:- "Would it not be better to have public collections for laudable objects in the name of the Governor of the Province rather than in the name of individual Minister or Members of Government ?"

The Hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan:-"I do not think that in a questio of Tamil culture the Governor's name should be brought in."

M. Muhammad Ismail Sahib Bahadur:-"May I know whether when one becomes a Minister he ceases to be a public man and as such he cannot take part in any public spheres ?"

The Hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan:-"I am thankful to the Hon. Gentleman for the hint he has given as to the propriety of the collections made by my Hon. Colleague the Minister for Education."

Abdul Hameed Khan Sahib Bahadur:-"I was going to ask the question- and before that, that question has been forestalled by the Leader of the Opposition ! - arising out of the answers given by the Hon. the Leader of the House whether Government are prepared to recognise that one person has duel functions, private as well as public, when once a person becomes a Minister ?".

The Hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan:-"On that I have to say that Hon. Ministers are not bound by the Government Servants' Conduct Rules."

Sri V.I. Muniswami Pillai:-"Is it not a fact,Sir, that a responsible body of people are administering the funds that have been collected for this purpose ?"

The Hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan:-"That only shows what care my Hon. Colleague has taken to see that the funds so collected are utilised in a proper manner."

Sri T. Viswanatham:-"The question was whether persons in power being in a position to distribute patronage could make collections; it is not a question whether they cease to be public citizens but whether they should exercise that particular right of public citizenship so long as they are Ministers in a position to distribute patronage ?"

The Hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan:-"As I said, so long as they are not misusing their position, they are entitled to do this. I feel this is a very laudable purpose for which my Hon. friend, the Minister for Education, is rather to be congratulated than made the scapegoat of by this kind of questions."

Sri A. Kaleswara Rao:-"May I know whether there is anything wrong in a public Gentleman like the Minister, collecting or taking part in collections so long as he does not show any partiality to the donors in the exercise of his official duties ?"

The Hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan: "That question has been answered just now."

Sri Nagaraja Manigar:-"Apart from Hon. Ministers, I wish to know whether Government officials in their personal capacity can organize collection of public funds ?"

The Hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan:-"As a matter of fact, I feel that Government servants should be governed entirely by the Government Servants' Conduct Rules and they should not be party to such collections. I have already said that Hon. Ministers stand in a different category."

Abdul Hameed Khan Sahib Bahadur:-"Apart from laudable object of this fund, may I ask whether Government are prepared to state categorically whether Minister himself in his personal capacity apart from Government can make any collections ?

The Hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan:-"I am pretty certain that my Hon. Colleague being interested in the advancement of Tamil could have collected as much as he has done even if he remained a private citizen."

M.S. Abdul Majid Sahib Bahadur:-"Arising out of the answer that Hon. Ministers are not governed by any Government Servants' Conduct Rules, may I know whether there are any Conduct Rules

governing the conduct of Ministers as such ?"

The Hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan:-"There are certain well understood parliamentary conventions which I am sure, my Hon. Colleagues will carry out in the discharge of their duties."

Muhammad Raza Khan Sahib:-"May I know if, apart from the Hon. Minister for Education, the Hon. Finance Minister is also making collections for a Telugu Encyclopaedia and that competition has started among them for making the highest collections?"

The Hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan:-"There is no question of competition in this matter. I am sure the Hon. Minister for Finance is an interested in the advancement of Telugu as the Hon. Minister for Education is interested in the advancement of Tamil."

Mohamed Rafuedin Ahmed Ansari Sahib Bahadur:- "In view of the fact that the Government servants' Conduct Rules are out of date, will the Government think of revising them or scrapping them altogether ?".

The Hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan:-"There is no question of scrapping the Government Servants' Conduct Rules; administration grows by convention and by practice and by everything that is done. (An hon. Member: By malpractices.) I deny it. Therefore, I feel that if the Government think that the rules require to be altered they will certainly take necessary steps to have them altered.

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Public (General-B) Department.

The printed proceedings of the Legislative Assembly has received now been ~~reviewed~~ vide pp. 1-31 ~~c.f.~~. No further action is called for on this. May be recorded in a G.O. for future guidance

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